

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented): A network topology backplane bus architecture comprising:  
four independent data communication lines;  
a plurality of processing nodes sharing said independent data communication lines for  
data communication;  
one or more of said processing nodes associated with a first enclosure being normally  
connected for transmitting on only a first and second of said data communication  
lines and being normally connected for receiving on all of said data  
communication lines; and  
one or more other processing nodes associated with a second enclosure being  
normally connected for transmitting on only a third and fourth of said data lines  
and being normally connected for receiving on all of said data lines.
2. (Previously Presented): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in  
claim 1, wherein the first and third independent data communication lines comprise a first  
independent data communication network and the second and fourth independent data  
communication lines comprise a second independent data communication network.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in  
claim 1, wherein said processing nodes associated with the first enclosure utilize at least one of  
said first and second data communication lines for local communication with other nodes  
associated with the first enclosure.
5. (Previously Presented): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in  
claim 4, wherein said processing nodes associated with the first enclosure utilize at least one of

said first and second data communication lines for broadcasting transmissions to processing nodes associated with the second enclosure.

6.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in claim 5, wherein each of plurality of processing nodes associated with the first enclosure time-shares at least one of said first and second data communication lines with the other processing nodes associated with the first enclosure.

10. (Previously Presented): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in claim 9, wherein timesharing said data communication lines is synchronized.

11. (Previously Presented): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in claim 5, wherein said processing nodes associated with the second enclosure utilize at least one of said third and fourth data communication lines for local communication with other nodes associated with the first enclosure.

12. (Previously Presented): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in claim 11, wherein said processing nodes associated with the second enclosure utilize at least one of said third and fourth data communication lines for broadcasting transmissions to processing nodes associated with the first enclosure.

13. (Original): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in claim 12, wherein ones of said processing nodes supports different ones of flight critical functions.

14. (Original): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in claim 13, wherein one or more of said processing nodes supporting one of said flight critical functions is duplicated in one or more additional ones of said processing nodes.

15. (Previously Presented): The network topology backplane bus architecture recited in claim 14, wherein one of said processing nodes supporting said one of said flight critical functions is located in the first enclosure; and at least one of said additional processing nodes supporting said one of said flight critical functions is located in the second enclosure.

16.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented): A method of sharing independent data communication lines for fault tolerant data communication among a plurality of processing nodes, the method comprising:

permitting one or more first processing nodes transmitting privileges on a first and a second data communication lines;

permitting one or more second processing nodes transmitting privileges on a third and a fourth data communication lines; and

providing all the nodes receiving privileges on all of the data communication lines.

31.-34. (Canceled)